

DECLARATION



TECHNOLOGY CENTER R&D

OCT 01 2001

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As the below-named inventors, we declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses, and citizenships are as stated below under our names.

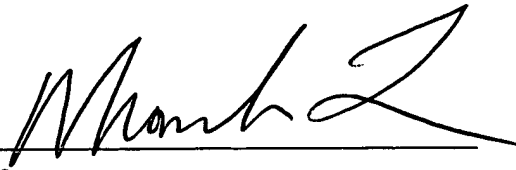
We believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "MICROELECTRONIC SUBSTRATE HAVING CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL WITH BLUNT CORNERED APERTURES, AND ASSOCIATED METHODS FOR REMOVING CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL," the specification of which was filed with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 21, 2001 (attorney docket number 108298515US2); and that this application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in our earlier-filed U.S. Application No. 09/651,779, entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Removing Conductive Material From a Microelectronic Substrate," filed August 30, 2000.

We have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

We acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), including material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the filing date of the present application.

We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that the making of willfully false statements and the like is punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and may jeopardize the validity of any patent issuing from this patent application.

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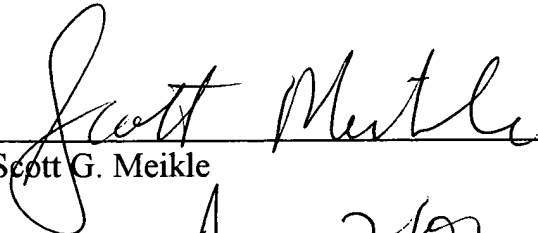

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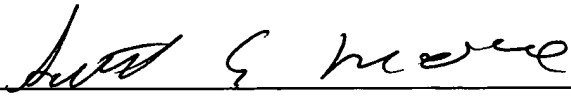

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